



Established 1959

July 2017

Australian

TRADITION

Print Post Approved PP335169/00012

Reg No A2511Y

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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OUR LAST MONTHLY BUSH DANCE



photo: Trevor Voake

**VFMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
IS COMING UP ON SUNDAY 9TH JULY
NOTE: FEES ARE ALSO DUE AT THIS TIME**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER
BY: FRIDAY 21ST JULY 2017 TO: EDITOR@VFMC.ORG.AU**

CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 6.30 Australian Folk Tunes playing; 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 memb. \$6 non memb. Currently 4th Tues is for all-in round robin tunes, dance sets & group singing. All welcome. www.vfmc.org.au

Guest Performer Concert

On the second Tuesday of the month (instead of the weekly session) a concert is held featuring top acoustic performers. Ringwood East Community Hall. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.15pm. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids no charge. All welcome. www.vfmc.org.au

By-Ear Sessions

Join us to learn how to play by following someone on:

- first Thursday, 8.00pm (at Harry’s place)
- Second Tuesday, 10:15 pm (after the Ringwood Folk Guest Night)
- Every Monday, 8:00 pm, (fiddles and mandolins at Harry’s place.)
- Most Saturdays, 11:00am, all instruments and singing, busking opposite the railway station in Ringwood East

Harry Gardner: (03) 9870 8998, 0408 708 998 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month except January 8-11pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. A different band is featured each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids no charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30th	31st					1st VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks
2nd	3rd Fiddles	4th Club Session	5th	6th	7th	8th
9th	10th Fiddles	11th Guest Night	12th	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th Fiddles	18th Club Session	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th Fiddles	25th Club Session	26th	27th	28th	29th



The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK



Co-cheòl

Tuesday 11th July

Spine tingling harmonies, playful humour and charming storytelling from four superb vocalists

Open stage from 7:45pm

\$14; \$12 concession; \$10 members; children no charge

Ringwood East Community Hall

Knaith Road Reserve



For info 0438.049.557 or www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

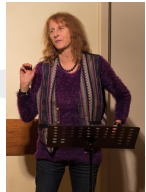
8th August - Dominic Martin. Support act Bill Buttler.

Guest Artist Night, June 2017

Our MC for the June Concert was Bette Martin. Ruth started the evening off with a poem about how annoying mobile phone users are today. She invited the audience to join in the refrain: *Will ya' turn that bloody phone off!* Alex shared a story about a bag lady in Richmond, a former dancer who loved a particular song. Then he sang that song for the crowd, accompanying himself on the ukulele, *The Beautiful Tennessee Waltz*. Mick Kearon then with guitar sang of pollution and misery with *Weevils in the Flour* and followed this with *The Song of the Sheet Metal Worker* by Australian folk singer/songwriter John Dengate. Then Dieter on harmonica and Dominic on guitar sang a ballad from the American/Mexican War, *The Maid of Monterey*. They then played an old German Folk tune about the moon.



More poetry, this time from Maggie asking the question, *Why do I keep waking up at 5?* Then a charming poem/song written when her baby smiled for the first time: *Tiny fingers pluck my hair.... let me never lose the ripple of your laugh.* The final act, a poem by Stephen telling us that wombats have square scats. Then he sang a song about Bill Spargo who was a real character, a man of the mountains who survived bushfires while he worked and mined in the Hotham area, eventually finding gold.



The Support Act for the evening was **Pleasant and Delightful**. The group comprises Kristin on flute, Robyn guitar and vocals, Ken autoharp, accordion and vocals, and Don on accordion and vocals. These four performers met at the Ringwood Folk Club and now perform together on a regular basis. Their music is sometimes quirky and often lively and humorous. They began with a tribute to May Day - an old Cornish song, *Hail! Hail! The First of May*. Then Robyn sang a traditional Scottish folk ballad, *I Know Where I'm Going*. Then on a lighter note, they all donned colourful leis as they presented a lively calypso medley: *Yellow Bird*, *Jamaican Farewell* and *The Sloop John B*, a traditional Bahamian song. Over to Scotland with an instrumental evoking the beauty of the western isles - *The Dark Isle*. Don Fraser masterfully played the concertina, mimicking the haunting wail of the bagpipes. Then a change of tempo: a Ewan McColl song - *Manchester Rambler* written in 1932 as a protest against public pathways being closed to rambles. Then *The Good Old Concertina*. This song by Henry Lawson celebrates the concertina, a common, sturdy, handy little instrument often seen around many an outback campfire or shearing shed.



Guest Artist Night, June 2017

Alan Musgrove and Rob Stephens were the main act for June. These two highly respected musicians are long established on the Australian folk music scene, each in his own right. Alan is a folklorist, collector, fiddler, guitarist, teacher and humourist. Rob is an accomplished keyboard and piano player and a thirty year veteran of the Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne folk scenes. They have combined their many talents to perform for the club as **The Pie Eaters**.



With Alan playing fiddle and Rob on piano, they sang humorous parodies of old songs including *Carolina in the Morning*. Their version included lines such as: “*Nothing seems to matter when you wake in Parramatta in the morning*”.

Next they sang a song written about the Sunshine Railway disaster of April 20th 1908, *If those Brakes had only Held*. Forty-four travellers were killed in the rail accident and this song was written as a memorial to the tragedy.

Rob switched to the accordion for some bright, lively instrumentals. *Little Burnt Potato*, *Bowral Jig* and *Herb's Jig*.

Then a ballad from 1827 in Suffolk England, *Murder in the Red Barn* - a sad tale of the hanging of a man for murdering his sweetheart.



Then we heard the *Wet Season Blues*. The toad frogs calling no beer, that's all they seem to say. There followed more jigs then a song about going to Mildura to pick grapes. The audience joined in the chorus of 'That's for sure!' Rob sang a lament that *the mailman passes by and never rings his bell*. With Alan on fiddle and Rob once again on the piano, we heard *Uncle Ned's Waltz*.

An old parody from 1879 - *Wait till Push on the Corner Refuses to Drink any more Beer*. Then *My Darling I'll Come Back to You*. The evening came to a close with the duo playing a tune which originated up around the Goulburn area. Rob and Alan are tireless ambassadors of the Australian folk traditions and the club has been very privileged to have them entertain us this evening.

Next month: Co Cheol - a delightful vocal quartet.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped at the attendance table, doing kitchen duties and setting up the hall for the evening.

- report by Bette Martin ; photos by Trevor Voake & Louise Blake



The Dance Page

Diary dates for July:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1st VFMC Dance Jolly Jumbucks
2nd TSDAV Dance Workshop Contra	3rd Scottish	4th English	5th Irish or Colonials	6th	7th	8th Scottish
9th Claddagh	10th Scottish	11th English	12th Irish or Colonials	13th Scottish	14th	15th Bendigo East Dance
16th Welsh	17th Scottish	18th English	19th Irish or Colonials	20th Colonial Bush Dance	21st	22nd Old Time Tea Dance
23rd Claddagh	24th Scottish	25th English	26th Irish or Colonials	27th	28th	29th
30th	31st Scottish	1st August English	2nd Irish or Colonials	3rd	4th	5th VFMC Dance Melbourne Colonial Band
6th TSDAV Dance Workshop Contra	7th Scottish	8th English	9th Irish or Colonials	10th Scottish	11th	12th Scottish

Old Time Tea Dance— Gay Charmers & Friends:

St David's Uniting Church Hall, 74 Melville Road, Brunswick West

Contact Norm: 9888-5332

The Dance Page


- VFMC Colonial Dance** at Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, 8-11 pm. Contact: Jane 9762-1389
- Claddagh** Irish set dancing at St George's Anglican Church, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe. **Sunday 2-5 pm**. Contact: Rod: 9497-1793
- Irish Wednesday** Irish dancing at St. Phillips Church, Hoddle St, Collingwood, 8-10pm. Contact: Marie 9471 0690
- English** Dancing at Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, 7 Greenwood Street, Burwood, 8-10pm. Contact: George 9890-5650
- Colonial Wednesday** Social dance classes at Collingwood Senior Citizens Hall. Eddy Court, Abbotsford. 8-10 pm. Contact Coral: 9885 6109
- Colonial Thursday** Australian Colonial/Bush Dance: Ashburton Uniting Church, 3 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 7.30-10pm. Contact: Coral 9885-6109
- Welsh** Dancing at Church of Christ Hall, 1 The Avenue, Surrey Hills, 2-4.30 pm. Contact Ian 9878 2414
- TSDAV** Sunday: The Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall, cnr Gore & Leicester Sts, Fitzroy. Contact: Norm Ellis 9888-5332
- Contra Dance** Malvern Community Arts Centre, 29 Burke R, Malvern East, 7.45-10.15 pm. Info: 0422 932 532
- Scottish Mon. & Sat.** Paton Memorial Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 8 pm
Contact: deepdene.dancers@bigpond.com
- Scottish Thursday** Taggerty Hall, Maroondah Highway at Taggerty, corner of Thornton Rd. 7-9pm. Contact: Di Gaylard 5963-3277 or musicman@virtual.net.au
- Bendigo East Dance** **Contact Dianne Pearse: 5442-1715 dpearse@iinet.net.au**
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V.F.M.C. SHIRTS

Brand new club shirts are now available in both polo or T styles for a reasonable price. Any members interested in purchasing a club shirt may do so either by seeing Trevor Voake on a club night or else via the following:- enquiries@vfmc.org.au using the subject heading "VFMC SHIRTS".

MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER: LOUISE BLAKE

My interest in folk music began at university in Canberra. After meeting a few talented musos on campus, I got up the courage to sing and learn guitar, but only performed amongst friends in a home studio set up in a friend's garage. Despite living in the home of the National Folk Festival, I never attended a festival, but I do remember the thrill of hearing the likes of Christy Moore and Mary Black perform in Canberra as part of the Guinness Celebration of Irish Music tours in the early 1990s. After university I worked at the National Museum of Australia and the National Library of Australia where my interest in folk music, and performing arts more generally, occasionally intersected with my work in public programs.

Fast forward more than a decade and, now living in Melbourne, I discovered via family history research that I had a 'folkie' in the family, my mother's second cousin, Trevor Voake. Trevor's father and my grandmother were keen family historians and I seem to have inherited the genealogy gene from them (as well as my support for Carlton Football Club), but didn't realise that my interest in folk music might also be a genetic fault! Trevor introduced me to the Victorian Folk Music Club and I would occasionally come along to Concert Nights. At one of these concert nights Trevor introduced me to Greg Woodruff and I was invited to one of his regular Saturday sessions with Trevor, Margie, and Denis O'Leary. After a long hiatus I was encouraged to sing again and had a great deal of fun playing with such a mad bunch of folkies!

Another passion of mine is history. After working as a professional historian for a number of years I started a PhD at Monash University in 2012 researching women who lived on the goldfields between Jamieson and Woods Point in the nineteenth century. As so often happens on these research journeys you find connections with other interests, and early on I stumbled across a connection with folk music. In 2013 I attended a mining history conference in Beechworth which Danny Spooner had been invited to. One of the highlights of the conference was Danny's impromptu performance of a Charles Thatcher song, the 'Emperor of Wahgunyah', which he sang at the All Saints Winery in Rutherglen. When I came home I resumed my research on a singer and actress, Eliza Oakey, who had sung at fundraising concerts in Woods Point in the 1860s. I then discovered that prior to her move to Woods Point Eliza and her husband had toured with Charles Thatcher, Annie Vitelli, and a number of other goldfield performers - Eliza had even performed in Rutherglen alongside Thatcher when he sang the 'Emperor of Wahgunyah' - and this made my memory of Danny's performance even richer. Eliza is mentioned briefly as 'Mrs Oakey' in Hugh Anderson's book on Thatcher, *The Colonial Minstrel*, but much of her life is largely unknown. As part of my research on the activities of women on the goldfields I hope to draw attention to women like Eliza who worked and performed on the goldfields, but never received the same kind of attention as the likes of Annie Vitelli or Lola Montez.

In honour of what was, sadly as it turned out, Danny Spooner's last performance at the club in 2016, I sang a song about goldfield women, 'The Colonial Widow', and told a brief story about the singer, Harriet Wooldridge, who performed the song at the Royal Victoria Theatre in Ballarat in 1858. A month later I was at a conference in Ballarat where Danny was, coincidentally, performing at the Art Gallery. Over dinner with his friends and a couple of colleagues from Canberra, I had a lovely conversation with Danny about folk music and goldfield women. I'm not sure I will ever develop the confidence to perform the songs properly, but I was grateful for his encouragement nonetheless.

This year I have been pleased to help out as a member of the VFMC Committee, but as I near the completion of my PhD I may not be as active. I hope to return to full-strength by mid next year to continue my involvement with the VFMC.

- report by Louise Blake ; photo by Trevor Voake

The Woolshed Ball May 27th 2017

We were very lucky weather-wise for the ball as it enticed people out rather than not. The day started very busy for me as I had invited our MC Carol and Eric for lunch and so I made savoury scones which turned out lovely (thank goodness as not always the case with visitors) and also some pasties for our dinner later. Caught up on lots of news over lunch with Carol and Eric and then Stephen and I went along to the hall to help set it up, Carol and Eric coming later with the dinner.

Once there we discovered that Robin, Stan, Coral, Jenny and Barbara were already there and had done quite a bit of work. Stephen and Stan started in with unloading the sound equipment and setting it up. Don G. arrived in time to set it up on the stage. I helped the others and in no time at all the decorating was finished and we were able to sit back and admire our handiwork. The sheep theme is so cute, quick and effective.

Carol and Eric finally arrived with our pasties (they had got slightly lost – twice) and we all stopped for a bite to eat. All go after that as we needed to change, the musicians started to arrive, Sue Harriage arrived and got going with sorting out musicians and sound, Carol started to go through the programme and I got my money box all ready for ball guests.



- photo by Trevor Voake

Carol opened the evening with the first dance and right from the first it started well as everyone was eager to dance and as soon as a dance was announced, the floor was crowded. The callers, Robin, Coral, Pauline, Kathy, Matt, Geoff and Carol, kept the evening rolling along with little rests and so it was that everyone was ready for supper. Carol kept an eye on the clock to ensure we were all good with timing and I kept taking cash from people as they came in. We had to get out an extra table and chairs as more people arrived than we expected (a good thing).

Supper in the kitchen was a mite crowded but at least it kept any mess in there and not on the dance floor.

Carol did such a good job that all the dances on the programme were danced and we still finished spot on 12am. I think the musicians had fun on the stage playing the tunes as they all sounded good. (Thank you Sue)

A big event like this needs helpers to set it up and put all away at the end, so thank you to Robin, Coral, Jenny Barbara and Kathy for setting up, to Jeff and all the others that helped at the end of the evening ensuring that we were out of the hall before the alarm went on. A big thank you to the kitchen helpers who made the kitchen tidy after supper (very much appreciated). Thank you to Carol for being a great M.C, to our callers, to Sue for doing a brilliant job with the sound, and mustn't forget our terrific musicians who put in lots of practice hours at Harry's (thank you Harry for the loan of your house) and did such a good job on the night: Stephen, Maree, Bill, Stan, Harry, Don G., Prue, Trevor, Stewart, Ray, Frances, Maggie.

Here in sunny Basildon, England as I write this so if I have forgotten anyone please accept my humble apologies. - *Jane Bullock*

WATTLE DAY - Saturday 2nd September

Wattle Day is drawing close on Saturday 2nd September, when we celebrate all things Australian. Should anybody wish to run/be part of an instrument or singing workshop, please let Jane know on **9762-1389** and she will be able to hopefully put it in the programme for the day.

There is already a dance workshop being run by Norm in the afternoon—so put this date in your diaries.

Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.

(Registered No A2511Y)



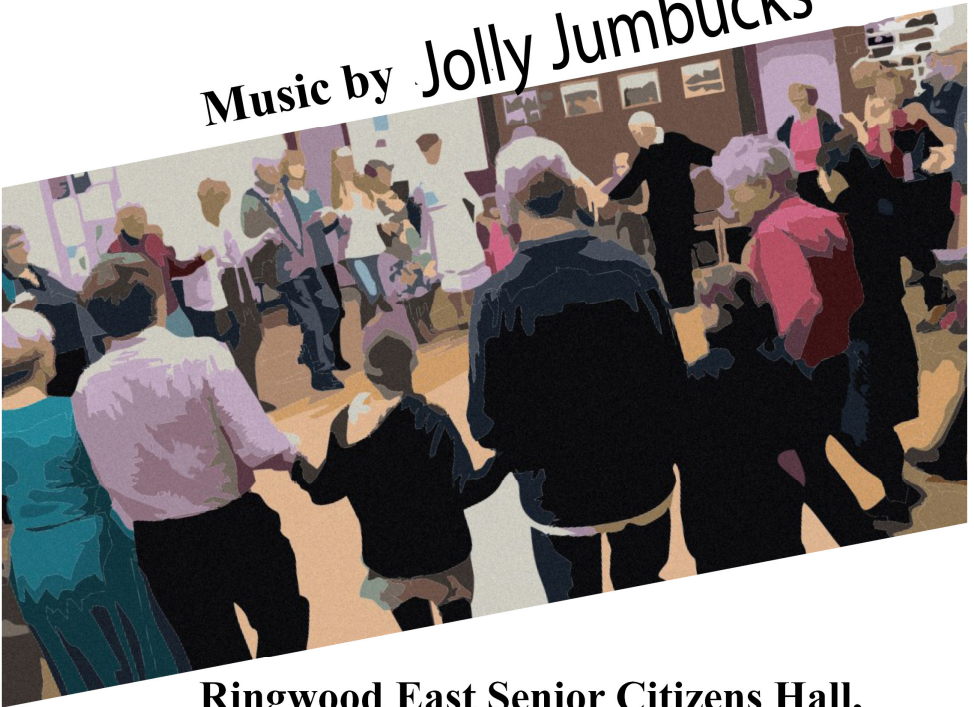
Family Bush Dance

Saturday 1st July

All dances are called and everyone is welcome

8:00pm - 11:00pm

Music by **Jolly Jumbucks**



**Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall,
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East
(Melways P50 B8)**

Cost: \$12 - Kids free with adult, \$10 - VFMC members door

Tea & Coffee provided

Enquiries:

Phone: Jane 9762 1389
Email: dance@vfmc.org.au
VFMC Website: www.vfmc.org.au

TSDAV presents

***The OLD TIME TEA
DANCE***

Saturday, July 22nd 2017

in West Brunswick

Dancing 4.30 pm till around 9.30 pm

Music by

The Gay Charmers and Friends

(details in Dance Pages)

MUSIC QUIZ

1) When does the Suzuki method date from? 2) Who created this method?
 3) What is it meant to parallel? 4) Name 4 instruments that use it. 5) What is stressed in this method to begin with?

Answers to last quiz: 1) Penny whistle or flageolet 2) Six 3) Irish and Scottish folk music 4) D 5) Tommy Makem or Paddy Moloney and Mary Bergin.

Concert Party Report—June 2017

Recent Events:

On Saturday 27th May the Billabong Band played for the VFMC **Woolshed Ball** at Kilsyth Memorial Hall.

A wonderful night of great live music and dancing!

Thank you to all who prepared the hall, played in the band, called the dances and provided the most wonderful supper. Thanks also to Carol who did a great job of MC.

I'd like to especially thank the Billabong Band who put in many weeks of practising, They are: Steve & Jane Bullock, Maggie Somerville, Trevor Voake, Pru Clements, Harry Gardner, Ray Mundy, Stan Ciuchak, Don Gingrich, Stewart Boundy, Frances Lester, Bill and Maree Butler.

Upcoming Events:

Monday 26 th June	1.30 – 2.30 – Donwood Aged Care
Wed 28 th June	10.45 -12md - Mooroolbark Residential
Saturday 15 th July	2 – 3 - Burwood Uniting Church
Friday 18 th August	2 – 3 – Lionsbrae

- Maree Buttler (Concert Party Convenor)

REGULAR FUNCTIONS AT OTHER VENUES

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzza@bendigo.net.au
 Feature concert on the 3rd Friday of each month 8-11pm, under the grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth oval, Bendigo

Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo Inc

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo East, third Saturday every month. Contact Dianne Pearse (dpearse@iinet.net.au) 5442-1715 or Mary Smith 5442-1153 (secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au) for details.

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimmell,
 03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264
 badfolk@optusnet.com.au
 Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806
www.badfolk.org.au

Boite World Music Cafe

Therese Virtue,, 03 9417 1983
 boite@boite.asn.au
 Friday & Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy, www.boite.asn.au

Geelong Folk Music Club

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749,
 adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310.
<http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/>

Gippsland Acoustic Music Club

Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403
 Local musicians and concert opportunities.
 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers
www.musicclub.org

Ranges Burrinja Folk Club

Andrew Jackson, 03 97567398 or 0402 473 897
mial@drfolk.com.au
 Guest artist, last Friday of month
 Burrinja Cultural Centre, 351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey Vic (Mel Ref 75B12)
www.rangesburrinjafolk.org/home.html

Selby Folk Club

David Miller, 03 9751 1218
miller@a1.com.au
 1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm, Selby Community House Minok Reserve
www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub

Peninsula Folk Club

First Sunday of each month, at the Frankston Bowling Club on the corner of Yuille Street and Williams Rd, Frankston, from 6:30 pm on. Carparking, great facilities, no stairs.
peninsulafolkclub.org.au

Ballarat Folk and Acoustic Music Group

First Sunday Every Month from 2 pm,
 Venue: Carman Welsh Church Hall,
 261 Albert Street,
 Sebastopol.
 Enquiries: Arthur: 0438 323 923
 Graeme: 03 5334 5551

Comhaltas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Maree: 9471-0690

THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CLUB

Members of the VFMC are entitled to -

- The monthly Club Newsletter
- Concessions at Club events
- Discounts on Club publications
- Discounts on Club CD's and cassettes
- Affiliation with other organizations

VFMC Postal Address

P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

VFMC Website

<http://www.vfmc.org.au>

CONTACTS

Secretary

Robyn Hammond
 Telephone:
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

Don Fraser
 Telephone: 0407 737 202
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

Family Bush Dance

Jane Bullock
 Telephone: 9762 1389
 Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
 Telephone: 9733 0802
 Email: enquiries@vfmc.org.au

To join the VFMC, fill in this Application Form and post with cheque to:

VFMC Secretary,
 P.O. Box 215,
 Ringwood East, Victoria 3135

Newsletter Delivery: (select)
 (both may be selected if desired)
 By Email
 and / or
 By Post

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	(select <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)
City/Suburban -	
Single	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Junior	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Single Pensioner	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Pensioner Family	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Country -	
Single	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>

Name:

Address: